



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail calpeek@aol.com

VOL. XXII
No. 37

OCT. 9, 2000

1ST GORE VS. BUSH DEBATE: WINNERS & LOSERS

The overnight polls show that Demo VP Al Gore did better than GOP Texas Gov. George W. Bush at their first debate. The USA Today/CNN survey (435 registered voters) had Gore beating Bush by a margin of 48% to 41%. A CBS News poll (812 registered voters) had Gore ahead: 56% to 42%. There were no knock outs, but Gore was more comfortable in this particular debate format and it showed. On the key issues, there was no mistaking where the two stand (abortion, tax cuts, social security, Medicare, energy policy). The only place where Bush seemed uncomfortable was in the middle of the debate on foreign policy. If there was a mistake made by Bush, it was on the question of the FDA's recent decision on the RU-486 – the abortion pill. Bush said he'd let the decision stand and this has opened the door for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan, who said in part, "Rather than denouncing the FDA decision that certified the culture of death by legalizing a human pesticide, he (Bush) focused instead on keeping women safe while they kill their babies." The Oct. 11th debate in St. Louis will be more informal and more to Bush's liking. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: REDEFINING FEES INTO TAXES IS CONFUSING, BUT IT IS ON THE BALLOT AS PROP. 37

Editor's note: Prop. 37 is a special interest initiative which is of great concern to Calif.'s business community, especially the alcoholic beverage industry, the oil & petro-chemical industry and the tobacco industry. These are some of the major interest groups who funded the petition drive to place Prop. 37 on the ballot. Here's our update and analysis...

...The official title of Prop. 37 is Fees, Taxes. New Definitions. It's a constitutional amendment which will have a big impact at both the State and local levels of government, because it changes many (but not all) FEES into TAXES. Why change? It takes a 2/3rds vote to pass a tax, but only a 50% vote to pass a fee...

...Which fees are impacted? Those addressing environmental, health and what's called societal or economic concerns. An example: under Prop. 37, a fee/tax to clean up toxic waste sites would require a 2/3rds vote of the Calif. Legislature. If the fee/tax to clean up a local toxic waste site were approved by a city council or by county supervisors, the fee

or tax would have to be placed before the voters...

...Which side is ahead? No public polls, but private surveys for both sides show that there is a large undecided vote, with the remaining voters being just about evenly split...

...Who gets mashed? By making it much more difficult to pass fee bills, Prop. 37 will set up interest group fights over what state programs get money from the General Fund. At present, many of these fights are avoided because the programs are partially fee-based. Here's an example: the Dept. of Pesticide Regulation get 50% of its funds from a fee on pesticide sales (\$.0175 of every \$1.00 in sales). The funding bill for this program comes up again in 2003. If Prop. 37 is approved, it may be difficult to get the 2/3rds vote for this program and thus the department's program (including worker safety) could be gutted...

...The YES side, which goes by the name of *Californians Against Hidden Taxes*, has just started a statewide radio campaign. Goddard Claussen/Porter Novelli are the media and campaign consultant for YES on 37. The ad claims that unless Prop. 37 is approved, there could be a new round of hidden taxes on "gasoline, food, cell phones --- and even our utility bills." Hummmm...

...The NO side, which is called *Taxpayers Against Polluter Protection*, is trying to raise a credible warchest, but so far it has raised under \$100,000. And getting the attention of the news media has been difficult, but the San Jose Mercury News editorialized NO on 37 and the NO side hopes other major dailies will follow...

...FYI: for a while the NO on 37 side hoped that the influential Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. would either come out NO or remain neutral on 37. And although the HJTA continues to have problems with the business community's support for Prop. 39 (lowers the 2/3rds vote for local school bonds to 55%), in the end HJTA decided that the 2/3rds vote under Prop. 37 was a key principle which the organization felt needed to be reinforced. So they have endorsed YES on 37. Stay tuned...

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310)659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$90/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHTED BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SECRETARY OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

CAMPAIGN 2000: IN THE BATTLE FOR SAN DIEGO MAYOR, PRO SPORTS ARE NOW THE KEY ISSUES.

Editor's note: With a month to go in this runoff battle to replace San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, one might think that the city's horrible traffic gridlock and urban sprawl might be the keys issues. No way!! San Diego Co. Sup. Ron Roberts and San Diego Judge Dick Murphy are each trying to come off as *Mr. Outside*, as they both run against city hall on the issue of *public funding of professional sports facilities*. Here's our update & analysis...

...The discussion of legitimate issues in the mayor's race stopped suddenly due to two things: 1) Construction was halted on a new baseball stadium in downtown San Diego by the *Padres* due to lack of funding; and 2) since the beginning of the new NFL season, the *San Diego Chargers* have NOT attracted a big 60,000+ crowd (or won a game) and it has cost the city **\$4.84 million** to date...

...The baseball stadium first. Private funding by the team dried up and so has the money from the city. The big bucks from the sale of bonds (\$299 million) was supposed to have taken place in January, but several lawsuits and a federal probe of San Diego Councilwoman Valerie Stallings' association with *Padres* owner John Moores have delayed the sale. Stallings bought stock in a new company owned by Moores. This occurred while she was casting votes in favor of the new stadium...

...Enter the political charge. On Aug. 11th Murphy called on Stallings to resign, saying what she did may or may not have been legal, "but it is not right and she should resign." And Murphy urged Roberts to join him. Tough to do, since Stallings is a Roberts supporter. The federal probe has made it near impossible to get a good price for the bonds and thus the bonds haven't been sold...

...And now to the Chargers. Unlike Prop. C, where voters approved \$299 million in bonds for a new baseball stadium, the deal which saw millions of taxpayer dollars pumped into the modernization of Jack Murphy Stadium (now called Qualcom Stadium), there was never a public vote on this 1996 deal. And there's no two ways about it, the city got screwed. Whenever attendance drops below 60,000, the city has to pick up the tab. At the most recent game, there were just 47,233 seats sold. In '98, the city lost \$5 million!!!

...Enter the political charge. Roberts was all over this deal in the primary (Roberts favors privatizing the stadium), but recently has been playing defense while Murphy tries to take the issue away from him. Murphy said, "A losing team is

not a sufficient excuse for such poor ticket sales... I say the *San Diego Chargers* can do better and the city must insist on that, even if it means filing a lawsuit." Roberts says the city can inspect at the *Chargers'* marketing plan at any time --- to see how much money they are spending on promoting tickets and the team. And this is where insiders think the city is heading -- an inspection of the books...

...FYI: No new public polling data as **Calpeek** hit deadline, but there have been some private surveys. One survey taken for a business group (which supports Roberts) shows Roberts to be slightly ahead as of early September, with a large number of undecided voters. All members of the San Diego Council have now endorsed Roberts, but ex mayoral candidate Jim Bell is supporting Murphy. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON CALIF. SENATE RACES.

Editor's note: Democrats hold a 25 to 15 margin in the CA State Senate and according to our sources that margin will remain -- give or take one or two seats. Like the Assembly Democrats, Senate President John Burton(D) has tons of money to protect incumbents and open seats currently held by Demos. Here is **Calpeek's** update & analysis...

...The 20 odds numbered seats are up in November and of this number 14 are considered safe. On the GOP side, the safe seats are: Oller 1st SD; McPherson 15th SD; Knight 17th SD; McClintock 19th SD; Brulte 31st SD; Ackerman 33rd SD; Johnson 35th SD; and Battin 37th SD. Incumbents are underlined. Adding these 8 to 5 even numbered seats held by GOPers not up this year, gives GOP Senate Leader Jim Brulte a base of 13...

...On the Demo side, these are the safe seats: Burton 3rd SD; Perata 9th SD; Sher 11th SD; Vasconcellos 13th SD; Kuehl 23rd SD; and Vincent 25th SD. The incumbents are underlined. Burton has 14 other Demos who are not up in 2000, giving him a base of 20 in January. Hilda Solis(D-24) is #21, but she has been elected to the U.S. House. There will be a special election and the Demos will hold this seat...

The Battle Zone

...According to our sources, there are still six(6) seats in this category. Here's the rundown:

5th SD Open Machado(D) vs. Nakanishi(R). Toss up
7th SD Rainey(R) vs. Torlakson(D). Toss up
23rd SD Open Scott(D) vs. Zee(R). Leans D
27th SD Karnette(D) vs. Ryan(R). Leans D
29th SD Open Margett(R) vs. Melendez(D). Leans R
39th SD Alpert(D) vs. Stirling(R). Toss up

...FYI: the 39th SD has gone from Leans D to toss up because of the energy crisis in San Diego. Alpert's done 2 weeks of tv plus mail on the energy crisis and her campaign thinks they have the upper hand on Stirling. The 39th SD is a critical seat for Burton. In the 7th SD, the influential CCPOA (prison guards) have endorsed Torlakson. In '96 they backed Rainey. CCPOA president Don Novey is a very cautious guy and sources don't think he would have switched unless he knew something. We suspect he's polled very carefully. And the S.F. Chron has endorsed Torlakson over Rainey. Protecting Rainey is Brulte's top priority, because Rainey is Burton's only GOP target. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: CITY AND COUNTY INITIATIVES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on some key city and county initiatives facing voters Nov. 7th...

◆ **Measure A in Monterey Co.** – This is an initiative sponsored by the Pebble Beach Co. (read that as Arnold Palmer, Clint Eastwood and Peter Ueberroth, the former baseball commissioner). This group + partners bought the resort from a Japanese firm in 1999 and now they want to expand it. They want 1 new golf course and new hotel(s). In return, the initiative calls for the company to give up zoning rights to build 850 new homes. The initiative also provides for the company to set aside 425 acres of Del Monte Forest for recreational space. Sacto-based Townsend, Raimundo et al is handling the YES on A side...

◆ **Measure O in Ventura Co.** – Just a short update. The NO on O side (The Coalition Against Measure O), has won the endorsement of the Ventura Co. Medical Assn, Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader and the American Cancer Society. Measure O would allow Community Memorial Hospital and 6 other private hospitals to determine how Ventura Co.'s \$260 million in tobacco settlement funds are to be spent. In addition to local p/a consultant Neal Andrews, the NO on O side also is getting assistance from consultant Jack Nicholl. The YES side has hired Goddard Claussen/Porter Novelli to handle its campaign...

◆ **The Wal-Mart Wars** – There are 2 initiatives dealing with Wal-Mart stores – Measure T in Palmdale and Measure O in Yucaipa (San Bernardino Co.). In both battles, the Dolphin Group is on the YES side. In Yucaipa, the Dolphin Group is being assisted by the Western Group, who will handle field/GOTV. In Palmdale, Measure T would uphold a previous council vote to allow Wal-Mart to build a store, plus a new special ed school and a 20-acre park. Unions are opposed to T and have hired Richie Ross as their consultant. In Yucaipa, Measure O would permit Wal-Mart and Home

Depot to build stores, which would generate \$2.3 million in revenue for the city and provide 1,700 new jobs...

◆ **Measure KK Update** – This is the "living wage" initiative being sponsored by a group of beach-front hotels and business interests in Santa Monica. As we reported last week, the Dolphin Group is heading up the YES side. The NO side has hired consultant Richie Ross to do mail. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: This week Calpeek will look at the 10th CD, 38th CD, 27th CD and 42nd CD...

☒ **10th CD Update** – New poll by the Contra Costa Times shows U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher(D) holding a 13-point lead over GOP Co. Chair Claude Hutchison. It's Tauscher 39% vs. 26% for Hutchison, with 2% going to Natural Law Party candidate Valerie Janlois. The poll was taken Sept. 19-25 among 400 likely voters. The survey also showed that Tauscher is winning the moderates by a 2-to-1 margin, among those voters who have finalized their choice...

☒ **38th CD Update** – President Bill Clinton is the special guest at an Oct. 16th (1 p.m., The Regency Club, West L.A.) luncheon hosted by the A.N.G.L.E./Victory Fund, with the money going to Demo Gerrie Schipske, who is in an uphill battle against U.S. Rep. Steve Horn(R-Long Beach). Calpeek has this contest on our Watch List, but it still leans GOP...

☒ **20th CD Update** – U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D-Hanford) has yet another new TV ad. This one blasts GOP challenger Rich Rodriguez on his opposition to the Patients Bill of Rights and the prescription drug benefit added to Medicare. At their most recent debate on KMJ Radio, Rodriguez said he opposes the Patients Bill of Rights. This is about the 3rd or 4th ad that Dooley's team has put up in the last 6 weeks...

☒ **27th CD Update** – There's no doubt that U.S. Rep. Jim Rogan(R-Glendale) votes a very conservative line. In joining just 16 other hardline GOPers, Rogan did not vote to re-authorize the Violence Against Women Act. He didn't vote against HR1248; he just didn't vote. 206 GOPers, 207 Demos and 2 independents voted YES. FYI: as Calpeek reported a few weeks ago (9/25), the pharmaceutical industry (read that as Citizens for Better Medicare) had been spending about \$65,000 per week on cable TV ads for Rogan (and for U.S. Rep. Steve Kuykendall-R). Problem was that the cable buy was countywide. Now the media buyers are targeting just the cable system(s) within the 27th and 36th CDs...

CAMPAIGN 2000: ELECTORAL COLLEGE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here is Calpeek's *Electoral College* forecast with one month to go before the election...

GORE (16 safe): CA(54), CT(8), DE(3), DC(3), HI(4), IL(22), IA(7), ME(4), MD(10), MA(12), MN(10), NJ(15), NY(33), RI(4), TN(11) and VT(3). 203

Gore(5 Lean): MI(18), NM(5), OR(7), PA(23) and WV(5). 58

BUSH (17 safe): AL(9), AK(3), ID(4), IN(12), KS(6), KY(8), MS(7), MT(3), NE(5), ND(3), OK(8), SC(8), SD(3), TX(32), UT(5), VA(13) and WY(3). 132

Bush(2 Lean): AZ(8) and GA(13). 21

Toss Ups (11): AR(6), CO(8), FL(25), LA(9), MO(11), NV(4), NH(4), NC(14), OH(21), WA(11), WI(11)...

...FYI: In terms of the all important electoral college vote, 5 facts are clear: 1) the so-called GOP "electoral lock" no longer exists; 2) with the exception of Texas, Bush is not ahead in any state with a large bloc of electoral votes; 3) in certain *Sun Belt States* (AZ, NM, NV), because of a combined increase in union and Hispanic households, Gore is in a very competitive position; 4) another area to watch are some of the *Southern States* (AR, GA, NC, LA). In these states, polling is notoriously inaccurate because they do not accurately measure the African American vote. If Demos can get a big turnout among this bloc of voters, and pull 30% to 40% of the White vote, Gore could win some of these states; 5) Nader continues to be a factor in WA and perhaps OR as well. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Gore Leads in Sonoma County** – A new poll taken for the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* by Richard Hertz Consulting (425 voters, Sept. 22-28) shows Demo VP Al Gore with a 52% to 29% lead over TX Gov. George W. Bush(R), with Green Party candidate Ralph Nader at 8%. And while Sonoma County does have a big Demo Party registration edge, the thing that's interesting about this poll is Nader. Among Demos, Nader gets 7% and from other 3rd parties he's pulling 18%...

■ **Davis Signs Open Primary Bill** – Gov. Gray Davis(D) has signed SB 28 into law. The bill by State Sen. Steve Peace(D-El Cajon) allows Decline to State voters to vote in

a partisan primary IF the party will allow it. The Calif. Demo Party's Executive Cmt. has approved such a move by DTS voters, but there's been no action as yet by the Calif. Republican Party, although CRP Chair John McGraw has gone on record as favoring such a move...

■ **Davis Signs Bill to Extend Voter Registration** – Gov. Davis also has signed AB 1094 by Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg(D-Van Nuys). This bill, opposed by GOP Sec. of State Bill Jones, will allow citizens to register 15 days prior to an election. The current law has a 29-day cut-off period...

■ **NO on 36 Touts Sheen TV Ad** – Actor Martin Sheen, co-star of NBC-TV's *West Wing*, has cut a :30-sec. tv ad for *Californians United Against Drug Abuse* – **NO on 36**. Months ago, Sheen announced his opposition to Prop. 36, which if approved, would allow 1st time/non-violent drug users to undergo drug rehab treatment – with no prison or jail time. The big question, however, is whether NO on 36 will have the \$\$\$ to make an impact with this ad?? NO on 36 sources claim they will. We'll have to see what the next financial report shows...

■ **Assault Weapons Ban Constitutional** – The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's 1994 Assault Weapons ban. By refusing to hear an appeal by gunmakers, the law was upheld...

■ **Garcetti's Charitable Fund** – If you think you're about to hear a repeat of the Quackenbush mess, you're right. According to *L.A. Times* staff writer Ted Rohrlick, Garcetti established a charitable fund back in 1994 at a time when L.A. Co. was strapped for money. The fund is called the District Attorney Crime Prevention Foundation. And from 1994 to 1998, deputy DAs negotiated with 51 defendants, all of whom were accused of violating pollution laws. And instead of going to trial, these defendants settled and then made contributions to the fund. Total amount: \$506,000. The foundation featured Garcetti in at least one educational film paid for by DACPF funds. And according to the story in another 9 cases, the deputies got defendants to give about \$500,000 directly to the DA's office. Sounds just like what former Insurance Comm. Chuck Quackenbush(R) was doing in Sacramento with the big insurance companies: settle up with the foundation or else...

SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

Here is some helpful information about Calpeek that you may need to know. Deadlines for news and Marketplace Network: 12 noon each Wednesday. Calpeek is printed and mailed each Thursday. Our fax is (310)657-4340; e-mail calpeek@aol.com. Calpeek does NOT make refunds on cancellations...